

IMPACT REPORT 2021



STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITIES



TOGETHER

READ, LEARN AND SUCCEED.

ABOUT US

We are passionate about supporting children and young people at critical life stages. Our key initiative, **READ LEARN SUCCEED**, operates across many geographically and culturally diverse communities. Development of early literacy skills and school readiness is supported through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Youth employment and career development are promoted through school and business partnerships.

Grass-roots community engagement is at the core of what we do. United Way Australia (UWA) address entrenched disadvantage with a place-based approach. The Hive in Mt Druitt, Sydney is a collaboration with the community to help children start school well. Our goal is to bring about community and systems change and break the cycle of disadvantage.

UWA is a not-for-profit company registered in Australia, has DGR1 status and is also a Public Benevolent Institution. UWA has been operating in Australia for more than 50 years and is governed by a local Board of Directors. UWA is part of a global network of 1800 local United Way organisations in over 40 countries. Our common aim is to identify and resolve pressing community issues and make measurable changes in communities through collaborative partnerships.

PURPOSE

OUR BELIEFS

A child's chance of success should not be limited by their postcode.



OUR VISION

Together, we can ensure all Australian children **READ, LEARN AND SUCCEED**.



OUR PURPOSE

United Way Australia prepares children to succeed. We bring together all who can make a difference, starting with local communities.



OUR GOALS

Over five years we will help 40,000 Australian children and young people to **READ, LEARN AND SUCCEED**.



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

Childhood is an important time for healthy development, learning, and establishing the foundations for future success. Compared to many countries, Australian children are generally healthy, safe and doing well. However, opportunity does not present itself equally and universally. Childhood is a time of vulnerability and a child's outcomes can vary depending on where they live and their family's circumstances.

The first five years of a child's life are critically important for brain development. What happens in that first five years can have a profound impact on the next 80 years. That is why we focus on early literacy, early childhood development and school readiness.

Our work naturally extends to workforce readiness. In 2020, one in ten young Australians are unemployed. In many communities, one in five young people are unemployed. While the education system is doing its best to prepare our youth for life after school, a large proportion of our young people do not make the transition to full time education, training or employment well. As connectors, UWA brings corporate employees and youth together to explore the jobs of the future and empower students to confidently prepare for the workforce.

In 2021, many families experienced social isolation because of COVID-19. Like 2020, we needed to engage community and partners differently. In a changing world, many families are increasingly becoming socially isolated, and children are not getting the opportunities they need to thrive. In some communities we work, only half the children attend pre-school, most children don't get health development checks before school, and the number of children reported as being at Risk of Significant Harm is double the national average.

We are passionate about supporting children and young people at critical life stages. Our key initiative, **READ LEARN SUCCEED**, operates across many geographically and culturally diverse communities. To all our current partners, thank you for your generous support. Together, we will make a difference to many young lives in 2021 and beyond.



LIZ DIBBS
CHAIRMAN



CLAYTON NOBLE
CEO

IMAGINATION

LIBRARY



132,631 BOOKS

WERE DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES
THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

214

IMAGINATION LIBRARY
COMMUNITIES



5170

IMAGINATION
LIBRARY
GRADUATIONS



14,256

TOTAL
OF
CHILDREN

89% of educators report children are discussing books they've read at home more often

90% of educators report children are interacting with books at their service more often than before joining the Imagination Library

96% of services have storytime or other Imagination Library activities at least once a month

BUSINESS AND SCHOOL

PARTNERSHIPS

SUPPORTING



11,555 PEOPLE

12

VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITIES



UNITED
WE SING!

A VIRTUAL LUNCHTIME
CONCERT WITH
ORGANISATIONS CHOOSING
THEIR BEST SINGERS
COMPETING WITH
PERFORMERS FROM OTHER
COMPANIES IN A FUN,
LIGHT-HEARTED
COMPETITION TO RAISE
FUNDS FOR EARLY LITERACY



RAISED
\$36,702



THE HIVE

FACILITATED AND SUPPORTED

56 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS FOR
COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND SERVICES

24 CORE SERVICE PARTNERS
WE COLLABORATE WITH

22 WIDER SERVICE PARTNERS
WE WORK WITH

We distributed approximately **200** children's education/activity packs during the COVID lockdown and provided another **30+** families with food vouchers or other essential needs

We supported community events across the four suburbs that had **4720** community members attending in total

The Check Ups Before School (CUBS) Program initiated **81** developmental assessments for children under 5. Of those 81 assessments, there were **197** referrals made to allied health services

The Child Health Linker supported **32** children to access the support services they needed such as paediatric appointments or applying for the NDIS

30 CHILDREN ENROLLED
INTO **EARLY LEARNING**

21 CHILDREN
SUPPORTED TO
SUSTAIN THEIR
CURRENT ENROLMENTS
IN EARLY LEARNING

(this can be by helping to pay arrears, or negotiating payment plans with the centre)



LIVE UNITED

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United Way Australia is a registered charity with Deductible
Gift Recipient (DGR1) status. ABN 60 002 806 215



United Way Australia



@UnitedWayAus



@UnitedWayOz



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